

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 61 through 78 and 116 through 130 are pending, with Claims 61 and 116 through 124 being independent.

The Official Action sets forth an election of species requirement. In particular, the Official Action requires that Applicant elects one of the following species for prosecution on the merits: Species A: Claims 61-66, 69, 70, 73-76, 116-119, 122, 125/(117, 118, 122), 126/(117, 118, 119, 122), 127, 128/(117, 118, 119, 122), 129 and 130/(117, 118, 119, 122); and Species B: Claims 67-68, 71-72, 77-78, 120, 121, 123-124, 125/(120, 123), 126/(120-121, 123-124), 127, 128/(120-121, 123-124), 129 and 130/(120-121, 123-124), with Claim 61 being generic to “claims 62-66, 69-70 and 73-76 of the species (A) and claims 67-68, 71-72 and 77-78 of the species (B)”.

In response to the election of species requirement, Applicant provisionally elects **Species A with traverse** and respectfully submit that at least **Claims 61-66, 69, 70, 73-76, 116-119, 122, 125/(117, 118, 122), 126/(117, 118, 119, 122), 127/126/(117, 118, 119, 122), 128/(117, 118, 119, 122), 129/128/(117, 118, 119, 122), and 130/(117, 118, 119, 122)** are readable thereupon, with at least Claim 61 being generic.

However, the election of species requirement respectfully is traversed. Neither Applicant nor the Patent and Trademark Office should be put through the trouble and expense entailed in multiple filing and prosecution. Further, the making of an election of species requirement is not mandatory in all instances. It is submitted that it would not be an undue burden on the Examiner to examine all of the pending claims in the present application,

especially given that claims from both species were already allowed. Accordingly, in the interests of prosecution and economy of time, for Applicant, the Office, and the public-at-large, reconsideration and withdrawal of the election of species requirement is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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